

REMARKS

Claims 66-152 are pending in this application and have been subjected to a restriction requirement. Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect claims 66-105 with traverse, for the reasons stated below.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement. Without asserting a position as to whether the groups of claims identified by the Examiner are patentably distinct, Applicants respectfully submit that, due to the significant overlap in claim recitations among the three groups (*e.g.*, several claim limitations are essentially *verbatim* in the three claim groups), a more efficient and expedient examination would result if these three groups were examined together. Furthermore, in view of the claim overlap amongst the groups, it is the Applicants' position that there is no significant extra burden to the Examiner in examining all claims at once. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable, and earnestly solicit allowance thereof. The Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications including the subject matter of the non-elected claims 106-152.

In the event that there are any questions related to this response or the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application.

If necessary, Applicant requests that this response be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Please charge any fees that may be due in connection with this Response to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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